

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-05 ADP-00 L-03 /013 W

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R 040620Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7048

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 1959

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OTRA SU

SUBJ: PROPOSED VISIT TO US BY PRESIDENT SUDAN SUPREME COURT

REF: KHARTOUM A-48 OF JUNE 23, 1973

1. EMBASSY PREVIOUSLY RECOMMENDED KHALAFALLA EL RASHID, PRESIDENT SUDAN SUPREME COURT TO VISIT US ON CU IV GRANT FOR STUDY AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONAL AND JUDICIAL ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURES. WE NOTED, HOWEVER, (REFAIR) THAT TIMING COULD DEPEND ON WHETHER HIS OFFICE BECAME INVOLVED IN SUDANESE JUDICIAL PROCESS CONNECTED WITH BSO TRIAL. CONTRARY TO EARLIER ESTIMATES, TRIAL HAS BEEN DELAYED (MAGISTERIAL INQUIRY NOW SCHEDULED FOR SEPT 25) AND SUBSEQUENT TRIAL AND APPEAL REVIEWS COULD LAST MONTHS.

2. DURING BRIEF CONVERSATION BETWEEN CHARGE AND KHALAFALLA IN MID-JULY AT SOCIAL FUNCTION, CHARGE NOTED USG RECOGNIZED KHALAFALLA MIGHT WISH ADJUST TIMING TO AVOID ANY CONTROVERSIAL LINK BETWEEN US VISIT AND HIS POSSIBLE FUTURE ROLE IN THE BSO TRIAL. KHALAFALLA APPEARED UNCONCERNED. HE SUBSEQUENTLY CALLED CHARGE AUG 29 INQUIRING ABOUT STATUS INVITATION. HE NOTED HE INTENDS BE IN LONDON FIRST TWO WEEKS NOVEMBER AND WOULD FIND IT CONVENIENT PROCEED DIRECTLY TO US FOR LEADER GRANT VISIT. AS FAR AS TRIAL WAS CONCERNED, HE EXPECTED "...MATTER TO DRIVE ON FOR SOME TIME" AND DID NOT CONSIDER IT A FACTOR IN TIMING. CHARGE SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO STATUS INVITATION.

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3. COMMENT: WE ASSUME KHALAFALLA IS BEST JUDGE HIS

OWN INTERESTS, BUT WE ARE NOT ENTIRELY CONFORTABLE WITH
A TRIP TO THE US WHILE THE TRIAL PROCESS IS PENDING. ON
OTHER HAND, CONTINUED DEFERRAL COULD MEAN EXTENSIVE
DELAY IN VISIT BY A KEY GOS OFFICIAL OF OBVIOUS QUALITY
AND YOUTH (43). ACTION REQUESTED.
EMB WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT/CU ASSESSMENT WHETHER
PROGRAM WITH US SUPREME COURT JUSTICES AND OTHER FEDERAL
AND STATE JUDGES RECOMMENDED REPAIR COULD BE PROGRAMMED
DURING NOV-DEC. IF NOT, WHAT WOULD BE BEST TIME FRAME?
IF NOV-DEC PROGRAMMING POSSIBLE, DOES DEPT HAVE ANY
VIEWS ON ADVISABILITY HIS VISIT AT THAT TIME? INCLUDING
POSSIBLE EXPOSURE TO US PRESS? FRITTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SUPREME COURT, EDUCATIONAL & CULTURAL EXCHANGE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973KHARTO01959
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS FRITTS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: KHARTOUM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730957/aaaabprnv.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: KHARTOUM A-48 OF JUNE 23, 1973
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14-Jan-2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <04-Feb-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPOSED VISIT TO US BY PRESIDENT SUDAN SUPREME COURT
TAGS: OTRA, SU, (EL RASHID, KHALAFALLA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005